THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There is no acute shortage of doctors in the dispensaries under CGHS Delhi. However, from some of the dispensaries under CGHS Delhi, doctors were transferred to the Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD)7other places against whom replacements have not joined, which is a temporary phenomenon.

There is some shortage of supporting staff in the dispensaries under CGHS Delhi in various categories of posts due to non-filling up of vacancies consequent upon the ban imposed by the Government on recruitment.

(c) Yes, Sir, the emergency services in certain dispensaries have been discontinued due to low attendance of patients at the dispensaries during the emergency shift services. As a result, the CGHS has been able to optimally use the services of the available doctors/staff for the morning shift in various dispensaries so as to provide better services to the CGHS beneficiaries and reducing the waiting time for consultation at the dispensaries.

(d) In view of (c) above, the question does not arise.

New Gene for AIDS resistance

1374. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a study, a gene may help people resist AIDS;

(b) whether his Ministry has come across such a study; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes sir, one such study has been carried out in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, (AIIMS) New Delhi. A set of immunomodulatory genes have been identified that may have protective effect in patients infected with

HIV. But in patients who posses variants of these genes it may lead to faster disease progression. A study carried out in the AIIMS, New Delhi has reported that certain genes that confer protection against progression to AIDS in HIV-infected patients, occur in lower frequency in Indian populations. The study also reported that genes associated with faster disease progression are more common in Indians.

Study on diabetes by AIIMS

1375. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study on diabetes conducted by AIIMS has warned kids on over-diet as reported in print media;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by Government on this study report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) a study was conducted by All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) during the period 2000-04 under which 1994 students were surveyed. It was found during the study that 15% of the students were obese and many had syndrome X (the metabolic syndrome) and other risk factors for heart disease. It was also felt that their macro-and micro nutrient intake was imbalanced and substantial number of them were sedentary.

Since creating awareness through Information Education and Communication is the main strategy to tackle the issue of obesity, this component has been incorporated in the National Programme for Control of Diabetes and Cardio-Vascular (CVD) for which this Ministry has sought in principle approval from the Planning Commission.

Family Welfare Centres in the country

1376. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of family welfare centres functioning in the country, particularly in rural areas, State-wise;